

MERKLEY for cosponsoring the Expedited CARD Reform for Consumers Act. In addition, along with Senate Banking Committee Chairman DODD, today I cosponsored a bill that would immediately freeze interest rates on existing credit card balances. This is an important bill that will allow consumers to pay off their credit card debt at the interest rate they consented to when they took on that debt. It is a matter of fairness. I look forward to working with Chairman DODD and colleagues from both parties to pass these important bills as quickly as possible.

FIREARM DEATHS

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, according to the latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, 3,184 children and teens died from a firearm in the United States in 2006, a 6 percent increase from 2005. This breaks down to the life of an American child being taken every 2 hours and 45 minutes by someone wielding a gun. More than five times as many, or nearly 17,500 children and teens suffered a nonfatal gun injury that year, a 7 percent increase from the previous year.

The 2009 Children's Defense Fund's report "Protect Children, Not Guns" illustrates the problem even more pointedly. The report, which provides key findings on children's gun deaths, states that more preschoolers were killed by firearms in 2006 than were law enforcement officers in the line of duty.

This type of violence is preventable. It only requires action. The Children's Defense Fund's report makes a number of recommendations about how to protect children from gun violence. Among other things, they recommend schools provide nonviolent conflict resolution courses for all students and communities create positive activities for children and teenagers to reduce the influence of gangs and drugs. They also recommend passage of such common sense gun safety legislation as closing the gun show loophole, strengthening the Brady background check system and reauthorizing the assault weapons ban.

We cannot afford to sit and watch as so many young lives are irrevocably destroyed by gun violence. Passage of commonsense legislation would help end these types of tragedies.

REMEMBERING SPECIALIST JACOB WILLIAM SEXTON

Mr. BAYH. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life of Army SPC Jacob William Sexton. A member of Company A, 2nd Battalion 151st Infantry of the Indiana National Guard, Jacob was only 21 years old when his life came to a tragic end on October 12, 2009, while on leave from active deployment in Afghanistan.

Today, I join Jacob's family and friends in mourning his untimely death. Jacob will be remembered as a loving brother, son and friend to many.

He is survived by his parents, Jeffery and Barbara; his three brothers, Joshua, Jeremiah and Jared; his paternal grandparents; maternal grandmother; and a community of friends and family members. Like two of his brothers, Jacob followed in the footsteps of his father, an Army veteran. His brother described Jacob as his father's best friend.

A native of Farmland, IN, Jacob enlisted in the National Guard after graduating from Monroe Central High School in 2006. He served his first tour in Iraq with the Winchester guard unit as a humvee driver. Upon returning home, he continued to serve his country by training other military humvee drivers and keeping charge of weapons and ammunition at Camp Atterbury. More recently, he was deployed near Kabul, Afghanistan, where he was described by his superiors as a model soldier with good morale and an excellent sense of humor.

While we struggle to express our sorrow over the loss of Jacob, we can take pride in the example he set as a soldier, a son, a grandson, and a brother. Today and always, he will be remembered by family, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we cherish the legacy of his service and his life.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Jacob William Sexton in the record of the Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace.

I pray that the Sexton family can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE I HAVE WINGS BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION

• Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, today I would like to recognize the I Have Wings breast cancer foundation in Erlanger, KY. October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and I Have Wings has dedicated its efforts to the ongoing battle against breast cancer.

According to the American Cancer Society, this year over 190,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in our Nation and an estimated 40,000 Americans will lose their fight with breast cancer. At the same time, today there are millions of women in our country who have been treated for breast cancer.

Throughout my tenure as a U.S. Senator, I have supported legislation to increase awareness, prevention, and funding for breast cancer. Too often we hear about a case of breast cancer that is caught at a late stage, leaving the patient and families with little hope. These stories remind us why we must continue to support and expand National Breast Cancer Awareness Month efforts.

The I Have Wings foundation is a leader in the fight against breast cancer. It strives to educate individuals,

provides encouragement for those in need, and generously supports research efforts in Kentucky. And while efforts by I Have Wings and other breast cancer foundations often go unnoticed in the ongoing battle against this deadly disease, we must remember that they play an important role as an activist and educator in our communities.

Again, I commend the efforts of the I Have Wings foundation as our Nation continues to spread breast cancer awareness.●

REMEMBERING DANIEL MELNICK

• Mr. DODD. Madam President, I wish to speak in honor of a good friend and a friend to American cinema, Daniel Melnick, who passed away recently at the age of 77.

Those who know Hollywood will remember Daniel as a successful producer of film and television, and as a studio executive who believed in audacity and creativity—a filmmaker's studio executive, if you will.

He was a prodigy, becoming the youngest producer at CBS Television at the age of 19, where he worked on such series as the legendary "Get Smart," and producing his first feature film at MGM, the thrilling "Straw Dogs," before he turned 40. Over the next decade, he played a role in the development of films ranging from "Network" to "Kramer vs. Kramer" to "The China Syndrome," while serving as head of production at both MGM and Columbia.

As a film producer, Daniels's credits include "All That Jazz," "Altered States," "Footloose," "Roxanne," and "L.A. Story." Fittingly, his work as a producer was bold and vibrant—just the sort of films he encouraged as a studio executive.

In all, Daniel's films were nominated for more than 80 Academy Awards, and won more than two dozen Oscars.

I will remember Daniel as a warm, funny, breathtakingly creative friend whose beautiful house in Utah was the site of many wonderful get-togethers. We are poorer for the loss, but richer for all he gave to our country and the arts.●

TIRBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL MICHEL G. JONES

• Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, today, I recognize the service LTC Michel "Shel" G. Jones, on the occasion of his retirement from active duty in the U.S. Army. Lieutenant Colonel Jones is an exceptional officer who has served our great Nation for more than 28 years, including 22 years on active duty and 6 years in the Iowa Army National Guard.

I have personally come to know and respect Lieutenant Colonel Jones over the 2½ years he served as an Army congressional liaison for the Army's weapons and tracked combat vehicles programs, to include the Army's Future